

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-5, 7, 9, 11, and 13, and add new claims 17-19 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for associating search results, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an original a first list of search results to a first user in response to a first query;
recording each of the search results from the first list that is selected by the first user and associating the selected search results with the first query;
receiving a second query from a second user, the second query being the same as or similar to the first query; and
providing to the second user an alternate list consisting of the search results to the second user, the alternate list listing those search results from the original list that have been previously selected by at least one user in response to the first query and/or similar queries as indicated by the recording of the search results that are selected associated with the first query due to selection by a user.

by whom

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2. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

before the step of receiving the second query from the second user, providing the original first list of search results to a plurality of other users in response to queries that are each the same as or similar to the first query; and

recording each of the search results from the first list that is selected by one of the other users and associating the selected search results with the first query,

wherein the alternate list of search results contains only those search results from the original first list that were selected by the first user and/or one of the other users.

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3. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of providing to the second user the alternate list of search results to the second user includes the sub-steps of:

displaying providing the original first list of search results to the second user;
receiving a request from the second user to view the alternate list of search results; and
displaying providing the alternate list of search results to the second user.

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4. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of recording each of the search results from the first list that is selected includes the sub-steps of:

storing each selected search result in a query database; and
for each stored searched result, storing an alternate results vector for each query for which the stored search result was selected.

5 (Currently Amended) A method for associating search results, said method comprising the steps of:

providing original lists of search results to users in response to queries, each original list of search results being provided to one of the users in response to one of the queries;

recording each of the search results from the original lists that is selected by each of the users in response to each of the queries;

receiving another query that is the same as or similar to one of the queries; and

providing an alternate list of search results that contains only those search results from the original list that have been recorded as being previously selected by at least one of the users in response to the one query as indicated by the recording of the search results from the original list that are selected by the users in response to the one query.

6. (Original) The method as defined in claim 5, wherein the step of providing the alternate list of search results includes the sub-steps of:

providing the original list of search results in response to the one query;

receiving a request to view the alternate list of search results; and

displaying the alternate list of search results.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 5, wherein the step of recording each of the search results from the original lists that is selected includes the sub-steps of:

storing each selected search result in a query database; and

for each stored searched result, storing an alternate results vector for each of the queries in response to which the stored search result was selected.

8.) (Original) The method as defined in claim 5, wherein the step of providing original lists of search results includes the sub-step of:

for each of the queries, searching a network using the query so as to produce one of the original lists of search results.

a 9. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium encoded with a program for associating search results, said program containing instructions for performing the steps of:

providing original lists of search results to users in response to queries, each original list of search results being provided to one of the users in response to one of the queries;

recording each of the search results from the original lists that is selected by each of the users in response to each of the queries;

receiving another query that is the same as or similar to one of the queries; and

providing an alternate list of search results that contains only those search results from the original list that have been recorded as being previously selected by at least one of the users in response to the one query as indicated by the recording of the search results from the original list that are selected by the users in response to the one query.

10. (Original) The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 9, wherein the step of providing the alternate list of search results includes the sub-steps of:

providing the original list of search results in response to the one query;

receiving a request to view the alternate list of search results; and

displaying the alternate list of search results.

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11. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 9, wherein the step of recording each of the search results from the original lists that is selected includes the sub-steps of:

storing each selected search result in a query database; and

for each stored searched result, storing an alternate results vector for each of the queries in response to which the stored search result was selected.

12. (Original) The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 9, wherein the step of providing original lists of search results includes the sub-step of:

for each of the queries, searching a network using the query so as to produce one of the original lists of search results.

a 13. (Currently Amended) A system for providing search results, said system comprising:
a search engine for providing original lists of search results to users in response to queries, each original list of search results being provided to one of the users in response to one of the queries;
a query database for storing each of the search results from the original lists that is selected by each of the users in response to each of the queries; and
a controller for providing an alternate list of search results in response to another query that is the same as or similar to one of the queries,
wherein the alternate list of search results lists those consists of the search results from the original list that have been recorded stored in the query database as having been previously selected by at least one of the users in response to the one query.

14. (Original) The system as defined in claim 13, wherein the controller includes:
means for providing the original list of search results in response to the one query;
means for receiving a request to view the alternate list of search results; and
means for displaying the alternate list of search results.

15. (Original) The system as defined in claim 13, wherein the query database stores each selected search result, and for each stored searched result, an alternate results vector for each of the queries in response to which the stored search result was selected.

16. (Original) The system as defined in claim 13, wherein for each of the queries, the search engine searches a network using the query so as to produce one of the original lists of search results.

17. (New) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein each of the search results in the first list of search results includes a hyperlink to an external resource.

18. (New) The method as defined in claim 17, wherein each of the search results in the first list of search results further includes a short abstract of the external resource.

19. (New) The method as defined in claim 17,
wherein in the recording step includes recording each of the hyperlinks from the first list that is selected by the first user, and
the alternate list includes all of the hyperlinks that have been previously selected by at least one user in response to the first query and/or similar queries.
